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What's News At Rhode Island College

Rhode Island College

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Thanks to biology students, DNA ‘art’ finds home during spring break

by Clare Eckert
What's News Editor

The final tally is in for contributions to the 1993 Rhode Island College Alumni Fund, with an all-time, record-breaking high of just over $190,000. The amount represents a 37 percent increase in the number of people who gave, and a 46 percent increase in the amount of giving over the 1992 high of $120,000.

These figures demonstrate a continuing effort and tremendous generosity on the part of our alumni to answer the needs of the College at a point in time when the general economy is down," according to Kristen Jalbert, assistant director of development for annual giving programs. "The response through the 1993 fund is overwhelming. It reaffirms my confidence in the commitment of college graduates to the success of Rhode Island College.

Continued on page 7

Woonsocket Middle School and RIC to collaborate in summer workshop on preventing school violence

by George LaTour
What's News Associate Editor

In a collaborative effort between Rhode Island College and the Woonsocket Middle School, the Department of Special Education at RIC is offering a four-week workshop July 5-July 28 on Preventing School Violence. The purpose of the workshop, says Steve C. Imber, professor of special education, is to make problem-solving easier for teachers and to share general and the departments of education at RIC since 1973 and who utilizes clear and specific school policies pertaining to possession of weapons, student-student conflict and student-teacher conflict to prevent or minimize violence at the Woonsocket Middle School.

That school also is using faculty-supervised student mediation to address student conflict.

The RIC workshop will use team teaching, role playing, videotape analysis, instructor presentation, guest speakers, small and large group discussion, and participant selected projects to encourage problem solving, says Imber.

"We don't want to turn the classroom into a police state, but, on the other hand, kids have a right to feel safe in school," says Imber.

For further information, contact RIC Department of Special Education at 456-8024 or the Office of Continuing Education at 456-8091.

"... outstanding illustrator and recorder of architectural accomplishments"

David Macaulay: The Way He Works exhibit will be at RIC’s Bannister Gallery April 7-30.

See page 7.
What is the RIC Alumni Book Award?

by Betty Filippelli Gordon, Class of 1968

It's March and across the state high school and college principals are receiving their annual invitations to join the RIC Alumni Book Award Program. While the program has now grown into a book award begun by the alumni Board and administered by alumni through the Office of News and Information, a year or so ago, Howard Boyaj, Class of 1965, formulated the outline of the program.

As Howie stated it, "The award, a deluxe leather-bound set of Webster's Dictionary and Thesaurus, would be a way to show appreciation for the many achievements one finds at RIC. Approximately 1,300 students and professionals attended the convention.

Health and physical education administrators and students from Cummings, Ben Lombardo, Janis Marceusak and June Nutter participated. Lombardo was the recipient of the EDA/AAPHERD Outstanding Student Award, and he received the award from RIC. Approximately 1,300 students and professionals attended the convention.

Everyone loves the RIC Alumni Book Award, which goes to the student at RIC who demonstrates the highest level of achievement in any discipline. It is presented by the RIC Alumni Association and is an opportunity for RIC students to be recognized for their outstanding efforts.

Next issue of What's News is April 11. Deadline for submission is Monday, April 1 at noon.
Lisa Byrnes Lachance--

From Noah's Ark to Roger Williams Park Zoo

When Lisa Byrnes Lachance, Class of 1965, was in fourth grade, she played the part of "God" in a production of Noah's Ark. Little did she realize that working with the "animals" then would be a sign of things to come.

Lachance was named public relations director at Roger Williams Park Zoo recently. She is responsible for spreading the word about the zoo's many animals and the zoo's exhibits, conservation programs and special events.

From her office in the Sophie Danforth Center, Lachance is absorbed in learning the difference between monkeys and apes (apes don't have tails), and trying to remember hundreds of facts about giraffes, elephants, polar bears, sea lions, zebras, llamas, gibbons, lemurs, penguins, reptiles, amphibians, insects, prawns! But...she loves every minute of it. "It's very exciting!"

Excitement and enthusiasm is part of Lachances' persona.

After one year at Quinnipiac College, Lachance transferred to Rhode Island College in 1963. Even though she lived only a half-hour ride from RIC, she lived on campus and made RIC her "home away from home" by staying on campus almost every weekend.

Lachance, who had been involved in radio since she was 15-years old, chose communications as her major. "Radio was my passion," she admits. "In 1975, I was licensed as a disc jockey in Rhode Island."

At RIC she took courses in film and television, advertising, public relations and management and worked as disc jockey, news anchor, business manager and public relations director at the College radio station, now WXIN.

She also found time to become a member of Student Government and work at Adams Library and the computer lab. "I made many good friends and had a great time at RIC," she says.

Her experience and degree enabled her to get a job with a Providence ad agency after graduation and later a position as assistant director of public relations at Wheaton College.

Lachance said the two-and-one-half years she spent at Wheaton were a great experience. "It was a very exciting and busy job."

It was during her time there that the traditionally women's college became co-ed, causing quite a controversy, Lachance says.

She became the college spokesperson. "I was always being interviewed by reporters from USA Today, the New York Times or the Wall Street Journal," she says.

This didn't phase Lachance, who had been in front of cameras entertaining family and friends with her singing since the mere age of five.

In 1989 Lachance became acting director of alumni affairs at RIC, filling in for Holly Sadohan who was on sabbatical leave.

She edited and wrote for Perspectives, the Alumni magazine, and worked on the Annual Fund.

"I really enjoyed my time in the Alumni Office," says Lachance. "I felt like I was back home with old friends again."

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This didn't phase Lachance, who said Pride, more specifically Roger Williams Park Zoo, is the place to be this summer. She and the zoo community are just "wild" about the "Return of the Dinosaurs" exhibit scheduled for May 14 to Sept. 5.

Many of you may remember the exhibit from 1992—it drew over one quarter of a million visitors.

Well, it’s coming back—bigger, better and more ferocious than ever, Lachance says.

Dinos ’94, the Northeast’s largest animated dinosaur exhibit, will be on display at the zoo outdoors in a quarter-mile prehistoric forest atmosphere.

This year, almost twice as many dinosaurs will appear, including many of the stars from the hit movie Jurassic Park, an adult T. Rex that is 24-feet high and 48-feet long; the predatory Dilophosaurus; Triceratops and child; and the movie’s villain, Velociraptor.

“Dinosaurs move, and they roar,” comments an enthusiastic Lachance. As her press release states, “Primordial fog rolls past, towering predators war against the sky, plant-eaters seek camouflage in the shadows and mortal enemies thrive in a sandstorm struggle.”

Lachance is anxiously awaiting the arrival of these large extinct reptiles in early May. “They’re transported on tractor trailers and lifted up with huge cranes,” she says. “I can’t wait to see that!”

Lachance and her husband, Paul, live in a 210-year-old house on 94 acres in West Greenwich. They have bee apiaries and a dog, and who knows...she just may pick up a few "green alligators and long-necked geese, bumped-back camels and chimpanzees, cats and rats and elephants...and start her own little zoo.
On "The Wall" with the RIC Dance Company

On Friday, March 4, opening night of the 35th Annual Spring Concert Series, the "Wall" loomed high before the Rhode Island College Dance Company and together they conquered it.

"Wall" is a dance choreographed by New York based Elizabeth Streb in 1991, which features an eight-foot wall that dancers hurl themselves against constructing interesting designs. "Wall" was one of five dances performed by the RIC dance company that weekend.

"You could see skin bits, blood and sweat left on it. The dance was very difficult. Mentally you have to be prepared," said Liam Clancy, a senior who has been dancing with the company since the Fall of 1992, "Elizabeth Streb wants the audience to see and feel; gravity and impact."

Streb's dance company, Ringside, has performed throughout the United States, Europe and Canada. Physical structures are often used in her works.

"Elizabeth Streb had us making shapes with our bodies, defying accepted norms for dance. We had to use our inner strength to stay focused and motivated, to look at the wall and want to conquer it," said Donna McGuire, a senior at RIC, who has been performing for over 15 years.

Clancy asserts that, "It is not just mindless banging into a wall, it is based on a unique method of dance training. Every movement is important, and one movement is dependent on the next."

Michelle Bastien, a graduate student who performed in all five dances, added, "Sometimes as a dancer you are apprehensive, afraid, but you have to overcome those fears. We all had to work through our own different blocks."

Sophomore Johnathan Flower summed it up, "It was about trust. Before the dance, we would gather in a circle and hold hands. We would breathe together and concentrate with each other."

Performers: Michelle Bastien, Liam Clancy, Cheryl Corrado, Michelle Deslandes, Joseph Doucette, Jonathan Flower, Donna McAlpine, Cheryl Miller, Angelina Vasella.
The lives of common people ...the fates of clashing empires... explored in Dufour's Colonial America

by Cynthia DeMaio
What's News Student Writer

U nemployment is causing anxiety and social discontent. There are tensions between people of different ethnic and racial backgrounds. Society's rules don't seem to work anymore and there are suspicions of an international conspiracy against liberty and human rights.

This is the climate in Colonial America just before the Revolution, says Ronald Dufour, assistant professor of history at Rhode Island College. His new textbook, called Colonial America, examines the Early Modern Period in America from the 16th century through the period of the Seven Years War (1756-1763). The text came out in January 1994, published by West Publishing Corporation of St. Paul, Minn.

The story of Colonial America is not the tale of a few elite people who get in school," Dufour said. The British and their East Coast Colonies were but one group competing for control of North America. The Spanish and the French also had staked out empires, making conflicts and tensions inevitable.

Dufour signed a contract to write the book four years ago after complaining ...the editor challenged him to write a book of his own.

Dufour signed a contract to write the book four years ago after complaining to a West Publishing editor that there were few adequate texts on this period. The editor challenged him to write a book.

Dufour's complaint about existing texts was their lack of attention to all participants of Colonial America. "Since the 1600s, there has been a shift in the way history is researched. This movement is called the 'New Social History.' Today historians include accounts of women's history, as well as those of American Indians, slaves, and the working class.

"For example, when covering women's history in the new book, we don't just include a separate section on women such as a little table entitled 'Women in the 18th Century' that gets on with the main story. Women were an integral part of the Colonial experience and examples are provided," Dufour said.

"African Americans are treated in the same manner. They experienced forced immigration in the late 17th and 18th century, as a severe racial issue. How similar and different their experiences were with those of other groups.

Dufour says it is a delight to cover this period of American history in this manner. "One reason few have made a mistake in this type of book is that there is so much information. I'd say that this period is the richest single field of scholarship in all of history."

The 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries, which represent a transition from the medieval feudal system to present-day capitalism, have more variety in cultural interaction than in other periods. These conditions allow more creative scholarship and imaginative research, Dufour said. "My biggest problem in writing the text book was to get it down to 476 pages," he said.

Some of the information Dufour uncovered in his research is about the daily experience of common people. Colonial women, for example, got together regularly to exchange household goods, setting up an informal economic exchange within their communities.

The role of women in society is illustrated by the treatment of Anne Hutchinson, founder of the Rhode Island town of Portsmouth. While it was common for women in England to meet and discuss religious matters in their homes, Hutchinson was banished by Puritan ministers and magistrates for doing the same in Massachusetts.

As with today's America, the story of Colonial America is one filled with ethnic and racial diversity, changing social mores, and conflict between nations. Ronald Dufour's new book tells this story, and makes us realize how similar the American experience truly is.

"Bringing the World into the Classroom" International Lecture Series begins April 11

The spring International Lecture Series at Rhode Island College entitled "Bringing the World into the Classroom" runs from April 11-28 in Alumni Lounge in Roberts Hall from 12:30-3 p.m.

Informal discussion among the speakers, commentators and the audience is encouraged. Light refreshments will be available. The public is invited free of charge.

The series is being sponsored by the International Studies Program at RIC, the vice president for academic affairs, the RIC Women's Studies Program, the College Lectures Committee, African and Afro-American Studies and the Committee on General Education.

For more information, contact Carolyn Fluchs-Lobban at 456-8006.

The series entries by date are:

Monday, April 11: "German Unification and the Shadow of the Third Reich" with Josef Glowa of the Brown University German department; commentators will be Jeanine Olson and Carl Hufnansd of the RIC history and political science departments, respectively.

Monday, April 18: "The New Europe" with Peter Woodward of the University of Reading, United Kingdom; commentators will be Richard Weiner, dean of the RIC Faculty of Arts and Sciences, and John Lobban of the RIC history department.

Monday, April 25: "Women's Rights and Islamist Trend" with Fatima Ahmed Ibrahim, president of the Women's International Democratic Federation, England; commentators will be David Thomas and Carolyn Fluchs-Lobban.

Informal discussions on specific lectures will be held in the anthropology/geo department.

Thursday, April 28: "Human Rights and Women's Rights: A Challenge for the Third World" with Mahgoub al-Tigani Mahmoud of the African Center for Democracy and Human Rights in Banjul, Gambia; commentators will be from the RIC chapter of Amnesty International, and Maureen Reddy of the RIC English department and the Women's Studies Program.
Macaulay's exhibit opens at Bannister Gallery April 7

by George LaTour
What's News Associate Editor


"A remarkable volume...it's one of the most imaginative and informative books of the year," said Gene Shalit of The Today Show about Macaulay's book in 1974.


And the list goes on praising the work of Macaulay whom the Architect and Interior Design magazine termed "an outstanding illustrator and recorder of architectural accomplishment." Designers, teacher, author, illustrator, Providence's own David Macaulay will bring an exhibit of his works to Rhode Island College's Bannister Gallery April 7-30 with a lecture and book signing at 7 p.m. on April 13 at 7 p.m. in Clarke Science Building 125.

In anticipation of what is being touted at RIC as "an event," RIC's laboratory school Henry Barnard is looking to the school from around the state to schedule visits to the exhibit from April 11 to the 29th. Macaulay, in turn, will call the HBS kids on April 15 and there, hopefully, will talk to them about the exhibit.

During the month, the HBS students will showcase the results of their study and exploration of Macaulay's books to Rhode Island College's students.

With text and drawings

With text and drawings, Macaulay's works offer a unique insight to the architecture and design of structures ranging from pyramids to castles.

Houghton Mifflin Company.

In January of 1997, Macaulay was the recipient of an honorary Doctor of Literature degree from the Rhode Island School of Design where he studied architecture and currently teaches and has taught at Wellesley College, Brown and Yale universities.

Exhibit opening at Bannister is set for Thursday, April 7, from 7-9 p.m. Special gallery evening hours on the April 13 artist's lecture and book signing are from 6-9 p.m.

Regular gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Thursday evenings from 6-9 p.m. The gallery is closed holidays.

Exhibit coordinators are the RIC art department and the School of Education and Human Development.

The exhibit is free and open to the public. For further information, call gallery director Dennis O'Malley at 456-9765 or 8054 or the School of Education and Human Development at 456-8110.
Korean pianist Sook-Young Lee will perform Bach's Chromatic Fantasy, Mozart's "Sonata in B-flat Major" and Schumann's "Carnaval, Opus 9" in the Rhode Island College Chamber Music Series. Wednesdays, 8:15 a.m. in SU 307 (Feb. 23 through March 30).

Korean pianist Sook-Young Lee will perform with both a bachelor's degree and master of fine arts. She taught several classes at Seoul National before taking a permanent position at Chong-Shin College, which is the Presbyterian General Assembly Theological College and Seminary. She is currently a professor and was the immediate past chairperson of the music department there. Her interests are not limited to religious music, but contemporary and classical as well. Sook-Young has performed in recital and with several nationally and internationally known performing artists over the years. She is the head pianist for both the Contemporary Music Society and the Korean Society of Women Composers. For more information, call John Pellegrino, series coordinator, at 456-8244.

Sports Events

26 Monday
3 p.m.-Men's Baseball. Rhode Island College vs. Bridgewater State College.
3 p.m.-Men's Tennis. Rhode Island College vs. Assumption College. Away.
30 Wednesday
3 p.m.-Women's Softball. RIC vs. Salem State College. Away.
3 p.m.-Men's Tennis. RIC vs. Nichols College. Away.
31 Thursday
3 p.m.-Men's Baseball. RIC vs. Salve Regina University. Away.

Saturday
11 a.m.-Women's Track & Field. RIC vs. Wesleyan University. Away.
11 a.m.-Men's Track & Field. RIC vs. Western Connecticut State University. Away.
1 p.m.-Women's Softball. RIC vs. U. Mass.-Dartmouth (DH). Home.
1 p.m.-Men's Baseball. RIC vs. U. Mass.-Dartmouth (DH). Home.
1 p.m.-Men's Tennis. RIC vs. Johnson & Wales University. Home.
3:30 p.m.-Women's Softball. RIC vs. Harvard University. Home.

Tuesday
5 p.m.-Men's Tennis. RIC vs. Salem State College. Home.
11 a.m.-Men's Track & Field. Rhode Island College Invitational. Home.
11 a.m.-Women's Track & Field. Rhode Island College Invitational. Home.
1 p.m.-Men's Baseball. RIC vs. Emerson College (DH). Away.
1 p.m.-Men's Tennis. RIC vs. U. Mass.-Boston. Home.
1 p.m.-Women's Softball. RIC vs. Boston (DH). Away.